



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

**DEC 21 2001**

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

File #: 1040.2

Document #: S37494

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Rambabu Bavirisetty

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: StanCOG 2000/01 FTIP Amendment Nos. 15-18**

We have completed our review of the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) Amendment Nos. 15 through 18 to its 2000/01 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) submitted by your letters dated September 20 and December 12, 2001. Amendments 15 through 17 were adopted by StanCOG on September 12, 2001. StanCOG adopted Amendment No. 18 on November 14, 2001.

We accept these StanCOG amendments in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that the amendments were developed based on a continuing, cooperative, comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). FHWA and FTA have made a conformity determination under separate cover that covers the StanCOG 2000/01 FTIP through Amendment No. 18. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

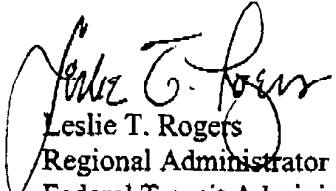
This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

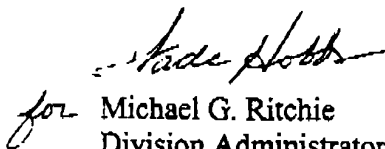
Our review of Amendment No. 18 indicated that the project data for the proposed program modifications have not been entered into the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS) database. Our approval of the State's FY 2000/01 to 2002/03 FSTIP on October 6, 2000, noted the importance of the California Department of Transportation continuing to work with the transportation planning agencies to ensure that CTIPS reflect complete and accurate data on programmed projects. We continue to believe that CTIPS, when used properly, offers a practical and effective programming tool for streamlining the programming process and enhancing the development and dissemination of program information. We recognize that unusual circumstances may occasionally arise that prohibit the entry of program data into the CTIPS database prior to the FSTIP modification request, however, we would expect the processing of amendments under these circumstances to be the exception rather than the rule.

We encourage you to share our concerns regarding the lack of project information in CTIPS for these FSTIP amendments with the StanCOG. To minimize delays in the FSTIP Amendment approval process, in those instances where the project data has not been entered into CTIPS, we encourage both Caltrans and the responsible regional planning agency to describe, in the request for the approval of the amendment, the circumstances that have prohibited the project data entry into the CTIPS database.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of StanCOG's FTIP Amendment Nos. 15 through 18 into California's 2000/01 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Furthermore, this approval is made with the understanding that any FTA funding approval on individual projects contained in the FSTIP is subject to all other FTA administrative requirements.

Sincerely,

  
Leslie T. Rogers  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

  
for Michael G. Ritchie  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

cc:

StanCOG FTIP Binder w/ attachments

FSTIP Binder

FTA, Paul PAGE

FHWA, Bill Haas

EPA, Karina O'Connor

StanCOG

Caltrans:

Federal Resource, Dick Petrie

Office of Local Programs, Terry Abbott

Transportation Programming, Rambabu Bavirisetty (Fax: 916-654-2738)